

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested. It is not the Applicants' intent to surrender any equivalents based on the amendments or arguments presented herein. It is believed that no new matter is involved in the amendments or arguments presented herein. Amendments have been made to clarify the language.

Specification

Certain informalities and typographical errors have been corrected.

Paragraphs 30 and 50-52 were amended to reflect the changes in the numbering of a figure. Figure 9(b) is now referred to as Figures 9(b)(1) and 9(b)(2).

As for paragraphs 43 and 66, the special character " $\sqrt{}$ " (square root) might not have printed on the application due to a printer error, not recognizing a special character. If that is the case, please insert " $\sqrt{}$ " in the specification, as indicated.

Drawings

The drawings are corrected as follows: As for Figure 4(a), the notations d1 and d2 have been interchanged to merely make them consistent with the specification (see paragraph 39 of the specification). As for Figure 9(b) which contains two drawings, these drawings are now referred to as Figure 9(b)(1) and Figure 9(b)(2) for convenience, and the corresponding changes have been made to the specification.

The Applicants respectfully submit proposed red-lined drawing corrections for Figures 4(a), 9(b)(1) and 9(b)(2) and request the Examiner's approval of the proposed drawing corrections. The Applicants also submit a full set of formal drawings in case the proposed drawing corrections are approved.

Claims

Claims 2-18, 20-28, 30, 34-45, 47-52, 54-56, 60-67 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 19, 29, 31-33, 46, 53, 57-59 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims have been amended without adding any new matter. New claims 60-67 are added without adding any new matter. Claims 60-65 are supported, for example, by the original claims 22, 27, 35, 38, 41 and

44. Claim 66 is supported, for example, by the original claims 49, 50, 51, 52 and 56 and the specification (see, e.g., paragraph 58). Claim 67 is supported, for example, by the original claim 54.

Rejections:

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4-8, 12-28, 31-33, 35-44, 46, 48-53 and 55-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter:

In the Office Action, claims 3, 9-11, 29, 30, 34, 45, 47 and 54 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants thank the Examiner and formally recognize the allowable subject matter of claims 3, 9-11, 29, 30, 34, 45, 47 and 54. These claims have been amended including the subject matter of the base claim and any intervening claims as recited in this amendment without surrendering any equivalents. These claims are amended as claims 3, 9-11, 21 (by including the subject matter of claim 29 into claim 21 and canceling claim 29), 30, 34, 45, 47 and 54. The Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 9-11, 21, 30, 34, 45, 47 and 54 are now in good order for allowance.

Canceled Claims:

In order to expedite prosecution, the Applicants have canceled claims 1, 19, 29, 31-33, 46, 53 and 57-59 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

Remaining Dependent Claims:

As for the remaining claims 2, 4-8, 12-18, 20, 22-28, 35-44, 48-52, 55, 56 and 60-67, the Applicants have amended them to depend directly or indirectly from allowable independent claims. Claims 2, 4-8, 12-18 and 20 are allowable because they now depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 3 which is allowable. Claims 22-28 and 35-44 are allowable because they now depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 30 which is allowable. Claims 48-52 are allowable because they now depend from independent claim 47 which is allowable. Claims 55-56 are allowable because they now depend from independent claim 54

which is allowable. Claims 60-65 are allowable because they now depend from independent claim 21 which is allowable. Claim 66 is allowable because it now depends from independent claim 47 which is allowable. Claim 67 is allowable because it now depends from independent claim 54 which is allowable. Furthermore, claims 2, 4-8, 12-18, 20, 22-28, 35-44, 48-52, 55, 56 and 60-67 are allowable because they include additional novel subject matter.

Conclusion

It is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe that there are matters relating to this application remaining that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call the Applicants' undersigned attorney.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 337-6700 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

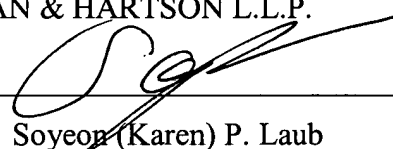
If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: February 3, 2004

By: _____


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